



## H.R. 409 – To amend title 23, United States Code, to inspect highway tunnels

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### FLOOR SITUATION

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H.R. 409 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Michael Capuano (D-MA) on January 11, 2007. The bill was reported out of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure by voice vote on November 15, 2007.

H.R. 409 is expected to be considered on January 22, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

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H.R. 409 expands the National Bridge Inspection Program to include the inspection of highway tunnels. It requires the Secretary of Transportation to develop standards for tunnel inspections with States and knowledgeable public and private organizations.

H.R. 409 requires states to maintain a current inventory of highway tunnels.

This legislation requires the Secretary of Transportation to develop a training program for tunnel inspectors and develop national standards for their certification.

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### BACKGROUND

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The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued a report on July 10, 2007, in response to a concrete ceiling panel accident in the Interstate 90 connector tunnel in Boston, MA. The NTSB identified "inadequate regulatory requirements for tunnel inspections" as a problem that needed to be addressed.

The National Bridge Inspection Program is responsible for locating and evaluating existing bridge deficiencies to ensure the safety of the traveling public. The National Bridge Inspection standards require states to conduct routing bridge inspections at least once every two years and maintain an inventory of highway bridges.

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### COST

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The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), using information from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), "estimates that implementing the bill would cost less than \$1 million a year, subject to the availability of appropriations. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues."

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### STAFF CONTACT

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